

*From the Pastor*

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How are we hearing God during our Lenten journey. Are we more intent upon listening for God's voice? Are we more focused upon our daily reflections? Are we spending more time quietly, simply being present to God's Spirit? Some of the ways I believe I feel God's presence these days *is* through what my eyes see. I see the drama of nature play out daily just beyond my window. Perhaps we should consider ourselves blessed to be living in Ohio and being treated to a variety of weather conditions all within the same day! We have a close relationship with Mother Nature here and, instead of complaining, I suppose we should learn the lessons nature has to teach us. Let's embrace the snow, the rain, the sleet, the wind and those bright sunny spurts which excite our senses.

The whole spectrum of weather conditions we witness can also affect the moods we experience in our lives of prayer. Don't you find yourself praying differently during a storm than when you see snow drift down in fluffy flakes to rest lightly upon the ground? The violence of a storm with its attendant dangers contrasts with the peace and beauty of the snow! How is this reflected in the prayers you find bubbling up from the depths of your being? Prayer is a natural response to the gift of creation. We arrive in this world ready to pray. We pray before we learn to speak or express ourselves. Prayer is embedded in our instincts and our emotions.

We don't necessarily understand what we do in prayer-but we don't have to. We just have to do it! If you feel your life of prayer has not been deliberate or formal or organized, don't despair! You probably have been praying all along. The impulse to appreciate each other or nature; the urge to be thankful for what is good in life; even the worry we find we need extra help with is all prayer. Let us use the remaining weeks of Lent to thank God for writing this code into our DNA. This way we can never be far from Him.

May God Bless You All!

**THOSE SCHEDULED TO SERVE IN MARCH**

ELDERS: March 3	Patsy Krider	Brenda Reish
10	Janice Middaugh	Ken Mishler
17	Sheryl Reeve	Pam Denzer
24	Pam Denzer	Brenda Reish
31	Sheryl Reeve	Betty Jo Bernow/Krider

DEACONS: Craig Schertzer	Kathie Sizemore
Jody Schertzer	Vern Sizemore
Polly Schmalz	Robin Snyder

**MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART:**

March 3

Gen Seckel

**CHANCEL FLOWERS**



Chancel flowers during March are being provided by:

Mar. 3	Available
10	“
17	“
24	“
31	Easter Flowers

## SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2013

Third Sunday in Lent

**VALET PARKING** is offered by Kathie Sizemore at 8:30 a.m.

**COFFEE HOUR** starts at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall on the first, second, third and fourth Sunday of the month. At 8:00 a.m. a community breakfast is offered on the last Sunday of March.

**FOOD PANTRY** - offers a chance for you to help feed the area's hungry. Please bring food staples to help us continue our support of this community-at-large ministry.



### **Ruth Group**

Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>; 1:30 p.m. in the Social Room  
Study leader is Rae Maurer; Hostess is Eleanor Gibson

### **CMF Breakfast**

Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>; 7:30 a.m. at Marion Diner

### **Gazette Deadline**

Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>; 11 a.m.

Anything received in the office AFTER this deadline will be included in the NEXT month's newsletter.

### **Thursday Evening Sharing**

Evening Sharing starts at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Bring your family and friends and share your concerns. During Lent a special study 'Faith Booster' will be offered.

### **Coupons**

A coupon drop-off box is on the Information Station table in the Fellowship Hall. Pick up coupons from the box in the small kitchen.

## EASTER SCHEDULE:

### **PARADE OF THE PALMS**

Palm Sunday, March 24

We will have our Parade of the Palms. Come dressed in your Easter finery as young and old alike wave palms.

### **EASTER SPECIAL DAY OFFERING**

Sundays, March 24 and 31

Please identify your offering so it may be included on your individual giving record.

### **EASTER BREAKFAST**

Sunday, March 31, at 8:00 a.m.

### **EASTER SUNDAY**

March 31 at 9:30 a.m.

Family Worship will be observed.

Families are to worship together.



### **2012 Financial Results**

As in previous years, the 2013 giving that supports the Ministries was 9% less than that necessary to fulfill the needs of the budget. Fortunately, two large donations designated for building maintenance, utilities, and salaries saved the year. Central Christian is solvent. For the long term future of Central Christian, we must increase the membership and Sunday attendance back to historical levels. If you have any ideas on how to bolster membership, please let a board member or our minister know. A summary of the 2012 Financial Results is available in the library.

### 2013 Pledging

Thanks to those that pledge! Your commitment is what gives Central Christian the confidence to look to the future. As with the 2012 Financial Results, this years pledging was about the same as for last year. Thanks Again!



### The Tax Man Cometh!!

I was at a tax seminar the end of January and learned something that I think needs to be shared. You may recall, when donating to a charitable organization, after the first of the year the organization issues a written statement giving the amount of your contribution and stating that no goods or services were received in exchange for the contribution. Our church is also a charitable organization. The IRS is now starting to crack down on church contributions being claimed by individuals on their tax returns IF their statements of giving do NOT have a statement indicating that the donor did not receive any goods or services. Now, IF you do not itemize, just skip over the rest of this paragraph and go on to the next because this all does not pertain to you. BUT if you do itemize - heads up! IF you file a tax return and your tax return is chosen to be audited and you do NOT have a Statement of Giving that says something like: "Any goods or services you may have received in connection with this gift were solely intangible religious benefits", the amount of your contribution to the church will be thrown out of your tax return. Of course, that means that the amount of your contribution is no longer an itemized deduction and your taxable income has now increased by the amount of your contribution...and MORE TAXES ARE DUE! The IRS is not allowing you to after the fact obtain from the church a statement with the proper verbage. The statement MUST BE OBTAINED prior to filing your tax return. So, if you itemize on your 2012 tax return and have a contribution to the church that you will be claiming, please contact the church and an additional Charitable Gift Receipt will be issued for you...Brenda Reish

### Utilities for March, 2013

Columbia Gas	\$1219.62
Ohio Edison	\$ 317.88
Frontier	\$ 194.11
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$1731.61</u></b>



### CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER:

**Betty Denny's** new room number is: **Room 9**  
**Kay Whitehead's** new phone number is: **389-3942**

### THANK YOU TO . . .

- **Patsy Krider** and **Diane Tidd** for helping in the church office.

### THANK YOU NOTES . . .

Thank you for all of the cards and especially the prayers for our Sister, Donna during her illness. We appreciate and thank you for all of the cards and prayers we received after the passing of our Sister. We are so Blessed to be members of such a loving and caring Church. God's Richest Blessings to each of you.

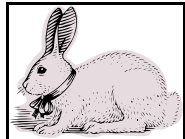
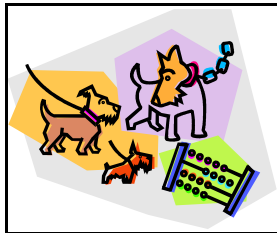
*Carolyn Owen & Terry Beers*

Central Christian Church,  
The family of Roop Hans acknowledges with deep appreciation your kind expression of sympathy.

*Doris Hans*

# PLAN AHEAD ... PET BLESSING DAY -

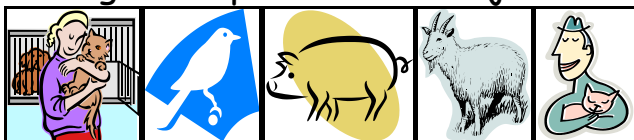
Sunday, May 5, 2013; Noon - 3:00 p.m.



Save the date and plan to be on hand for some exciting fun with our pets. Several activities are being planned that will amaze and astound you; educate and astonish you; entertain and amuse you!!

Plans are in the beginning stages ...  
**WATCH & LISTEN FOR DETAILS**

This is a public event so invite your friends to bring their pets and come join us.



## EASTER A New Beginning

“Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.”.Martin Luther

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Visit our library during March and learn about the symbols, traditions, and true meaning of Easter. Books for this special season are located on the east wall in a section marked by a cross. See the bulletin board for other information, ideas, and a recipe for Resurrection Easter Cookies. Don't forget to visit the Children's Library and check out some books to read to a child.

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### YOU'D CRY TOO IF NO ONE WANTED YOU

It is very sad to see that there are many books on the library shelves that have never been borrowed. Some have been there for a long time and some are new. Please come in take some of these lonely books home to read. They are waiting for you in the display rack.

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The photos taken during our “What On Earth Are You Doing For Heaven's Sake? promotion have been placed in an album. You are invited to view them and see the many ways the question is being answered. Thanks to each of you who so kindly participated in this project.

*Prayer Concerns*

Members

Dorothy Besch	Betty Leib
Libby Davis	Gene Miller
Dorsel and Betty Denney	Joel Reeve
Paul & Olga Geissler	Barb West
Roger & Esther Kingsley	Millie Zug

Non-members

Paul Bender ( <i>Shirk</i> )	Ruth Manier ( <i>Kingsley</i> )
Roxanne Bisel ( <i>Schmalz</i> )	Michael Meeks ( <i>Owen</i> )
Vickie Camm ( <i>Camm</i> )	Debbie Melvin ( <i>Reish</i> )
Brad Campbell ( <i>Miller</i> )	David Merrick ( <i>Reeve</i> )
Michelle Cole ( <i>Holliday</i> )	Jim & Christy Missler ( <i>Camm</i> )
Dave Doss ( <i>Tidd</i> )	Melissa Morehart ( <i>Green</i> )
Ken Ellinwood ( <i>Tidd</i> )	Paul Pezley ( <i>Schertzer</i> )
Mary Fazara ( <i>Kirk</i> )	John Probst ( <i>Schertzer</i> )
Robert Hilborn, Sr. ( <i>Tidd</i> )	Marcia Riggelman ( <i>Davis</i> )
Rick Huddle ( <i>Schertzer</i> )	Elaine Scarlett ( <i>Reeve</i> )
Lori Hoover Hudson ( <i>Lusch</i> )	Carl Schmidt ( <i>Reeve</i> )
Chuck Klingel ( <i>Tidd</i> )	Natalie Spears ( <i>Camm</i> )
Jeanie Kuchenbecker ( <i>Reeve</i> )	Keith Stamper ( <i>Owen</i> )
Sheila Leibold ( <i>Snyder</i> )	Marg Swauger ( <i>Reeve</i> )
Morgan Magers ( <i>Reeve</i> )	Helen Swinehart ( <i>Frye</i> )
Linda Mahan ( <i>Middaugh</i> )	Dave & Randi Woessner ( <i>Reish</i> )

**Military:**

Michael Dunfee ( <i>Winters</i> )	Jason Knotts ( <i>Owen</i> )
Sabastian Fortney ( <i>Middaugh</i> )	Isaac Ryan ( <i>Ryan</i> )
Erin Kirk & Kevin Kirk ( <i>Kirk</i> )	Alex Sayre ( <i>Holliday</i> )



**OUR SYMPATHY TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF . . .**

**Dorothy Kay**

who passed away Saturday, February 16, 2013

**CCC CELEBRATES  
MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

*Happy Anniversary!*

9	Frank & Janice Middaugh
19	Harold & Vickie Rorick
28	Tim & Amy Cantrell

*Happy Birthday!*

1	Craig Schertzer	17	Millie Zug
3	Marilyn Dillon	19	Savanah Butler
	Jane Sharrock		Brandon Large
5	Janie Milligan	20	Rick Shirk
6	Sabastian Fortney	21	Jeff Beam II
7	Terry Comstock	24	Carolyn Owen
	Shanda Hecker	26	Anabella Votaw
8	Charles Oberdier	28	Laura Miller
12	Amy Barkley	29	Genevieve Seckel
13	Kim Kingsley	31	Ronald Williams
14	Brett McAllister		
15	Jamie Boblenz		
	Pat Mishler		
	Erik Reish		
	Jane Ratterman		

*If you have a birthday and/or an anniversary in March and it does not appear on the list above, please contact the church office immediately so we may update our files and include it in the future. Thanks!*

**F.Y.I.**

**The Significance of  
the Number 40  
During Lent**

The number 40 has great significance in the Bible:

- In the story of Noah, rain fell for 40 days.
- Manna was given for 40 years in the wilderness.
- Moses was on the mountain for 40 days/nights.
- The 40<sup>th</sup> day God gave the Ten Commandments.
- For 40 days Goliath challenged the Israelites.
- On the 40<sup>th</sup> day David killed Goliath.
- Nineveh would be destroyed in 40 days.
- Jesus fasted in the wilderness for 40 days/nights.
- After 40 days Jesus began his ministry.
- The resurrected Christ ascended after 40 days.

*40 Days with Jesus* is an attempt to help us know Jesus as a close friend and walk with him from his childhood to the crucifixion and resurrection. During Lent you may wish to give up something—a negative habit or attitude—for the season.

